

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Joseph Peter Hubert Maria MERTENS

Serial No.: To be assigned (National Phase of PCT/EP03/03925 filed 14 April 2003)

Filed: October 15, 2004

For: BARRIER ELEMENT

#2

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

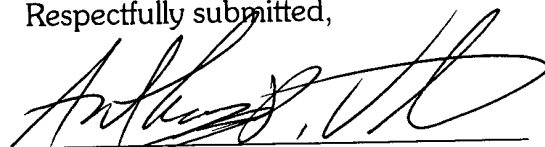
Pursuant to Rules 56 and 98, Applicants hereby call the attention of the Patent Office to the references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. These references were cited in an International Search Report (copy enclosed) in a corresponding International Application.

Applicants present these references so that the Patent Office may, in the first instance, determine any relevancy thereof to the presently claimed invention, see Beckman Instruments, Inc. v. Chemtronics, Inc., 439 F.2d 1369, 1380, 165 USPQ 355, 364 (5th Cir. 1970). Also see Patent Office Rule 104. Applicants respectfully request that these references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and made of record herein and appear among the "Reference Cited" on any patent to issue herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 15, 2004

By:



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GROUP

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])